(b) the details of SC/ST, general, handicapped and dependants of Defence personnel out of these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) During the last three years, *i.e.*, 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, the number of ratail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps) and LPG distributorships allotted to persons in different categories in the State of Kerala, were 60 and 79 respectively. Out of these, the number of allotments made to persons in the categories of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST), Open (O), Physically Handicapped (PH), and Defence Personnel (DC) was as under:-

Product	**Category**			
	SC/ST	**O**	**PH**	**DC**
RO	8	42	0	2
LPG	22	44	5	1

Untimely supply of coal-tar in Bihar

†1747. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that untimely supply of coal-tar (bitumin) causes time-overrun in the construction of roads in Bihar resulting in cost overrun;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to streamline the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) All orders for supply of Bitumen placed by customers in the State of Bihar have been supplied by Oil Public Sector Undertakings in time. Government is not aware of any instance of untimely supply against firm orders.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Bitumin is released to customers of Bihar from Barauni, Haldia, Mumbai, Tatanagar, Ranchi and Ramnagar (West Bengal). To augment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the supplies, Bitumin is also moved by Rail (Rakes) and by road to Barauni from Indian Oil Corporation's Refineries to meet Bihar State demand.

New Petroleum Product Pipeline Policy

1748. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new Petroleum Product Pipeline Policy based on common carrier principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of oil companies which have shown interest on mutually agreed terms and the regulations regarding tariff to be charged for pipeline use;

(c) the names of projects which are likely to benefited by the new policy;

(d) whether this new policy would benefit the common man in the country;

(e) if so, the details of such benefits; and

(f) by when this policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) The Government has notified guidelines for laying petroleum product pipelines *vide* notification F. No. P-20012/5/99-PP dated 20.11.2002. These guidelines categorize the pipelines and *inter alia* cover the issues of "ownership and access", "tariff" etc.

M/s Gas Transportation & Infrastructure Company Limited, M/s Petronet CI Limited and M/s Essar Oil Limited have so far shown interest in laying pipelines in pursuance of the aforesaid guidelines.

The guidelines are envisaged to expedite laying of petroleum product pipelines in the country. As pipeline transportation is generally cheaper as compared to other modes of transportation, it is likely to reduce the distribution costs of petroleum products.